

### Start Analyzing Fall Harvest Data

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. Harvest is winding down and it's time to reflect on this fall's harvest. But you need to do more than that. As you start to calculate yields on the various fields you need to start deciding if the yield was about what you expected, better or worse. Then, of course, comes the question of why. If you have yield maps from a yield monitor, as more and more of you do now days, it's time to sit down with them and start trying to figure out what's going on in each field. I think we all know that all fields vary in yield across the width and breadth of the field. Many items, like edges or low spots, you know immediately what the problem is. Other areas may take some time and some extra soil testing to start figuring it out. Some problems can be fixed. Others can not be fixed or easily fixed. If you need some help deciphering those maps, call me! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

## Last Cutting of Alfalfa

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. A phone call came in to the office last week and the conversation started out with, "What do we do with this alfalfa?" Darn good question. As of the end of last week we'd yet to have an official 32 degree reading. Scattered frosts in a few places but we'd yet to have that hard freeze that we'd prefer to see to put alfalfa dormant. And the way it looks it may be after Thanksgiving before that happens. My advice to the producer was to cut it. Many alfalfa fields have good growth and growth has slowed down a lot. Even if we get a worst case scenario of 2 weeks of growth and then a hard freeze, it won't kill the stand. First cutting production may be a little reduced next year, but the stand will survive just fine. But looking at the forecasts, lack of cold weather, and all that standing alfalfa, if it was me, I'd put up that cutting now! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

## Pasture, Rangeland and Forage Insurance

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. I'm not sure how many cattle producers or hay producers are aware of a form of crop insurance known as pasture, rangeland and forage insurance, sometimes just called PRF. PRF makes an automatic payment for hay or grazing acreage when local rainfall falls below the historic average. Producers can select 2 to 6 adjacent months of the year to trigger a payment IF rainfall falls below average and you can select 70 to 90% of the historic average. Now, they won't use your rain gauge. They have predetermined 17 by 13 mile grids that they base this on. Premiums are subsidized. RMA does have a decision tool to help you determine costs, etc and of course you can talk to your current crop insurance agent for more help on this. If you have any questions on historical rainfall don't hesitate to give me a call! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

## Add Body Condition to Heifers Now

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. Many cattle producers in our area have partially or totally spring calving herds. Many of those spring herds seem to have become more of a late winter calving herd but none the less, the next few months is a great time to make some simple management adjustments. Most researchers feel that first calf heifers should be at 80% of their mature weight by the time that they calve. For those heifers and even mature cows that are a little bit thin, the next 45 to 60 days can be a great time to get some weight on those gals. Fetus growth hasn't quite started to explode yet and maintenance needs in this nice fall weather aren't too great so it doesn't take but a little extra grain or good alfalfa to start packing on a couple pounds a day. As the weather gets colder and fetus growth increases, it becomes harder to add weight to those cows! I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.

## Fertilizing Brome, It's More than Just N

This is Ag Outlook, I'm Chuck Otte, Geary County Extension Agent. The next 6 weeks are a great time to fertilize brome grass. Top growth is decreasing but roots and crowns of the plants are still very active. When fertilizer is applied now and a little rain or snow takes it into the soil surface, the plant is able to rapidly grab those nutrients and get them into the plant. Then when growth starts in late February or early March next year, the plant is ready to go. I think we often don't get the fertilizer response we expect because of late applications well into March or April. The other kicker is that unless you have a recent soil test, you really need to be applying nitrogen, AND phosphorus AND sulfur. I think a good rate, in the absence of a soil test, is 70 to 100 pounds of nitrogen, 25 to 30 pounds of phosphorus and 10 to 20 pounds of sulfur. And if you do it now, it's liable to be cheaper than next spring. I'm Chuck Otte and this has been Ag Outlook.